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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

HEWITT, JAMES M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3679

DATE MAILED: 04/13/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/625,768	TSAUR, GARRY	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	James M. Hewitt	3679	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 February 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 July 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The drawings are objected to because in Figure 1, "Figur" should be replaced with "Figure". Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). The

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following does not find proper antecedent basis in the specification: the method steps of claims 11 and 12.

Claim Objections

Claims 1-12 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 1, line 7, "and" should be replaced with the phrase "upon insertion of" and the phrase "will be inserted" should be deleted for clarity.

Claim 1 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(i), which states "Where a claim sets forth a plurality of elements or steps, each element or step of the claim should be separated by a line indentation."

In claim 11, line 4, "outside" should be "inside".

In claim 11, line 8, "inside" should be "outside" and "outside" should be "inside".

In claim 11, line 13, the phrase "and the first tubular member will be inserted into the second tubular member" should be replaced with the phrase "upon insertion of the second tubular member into the first tubular member".

In claim 12, lines 10-11, the phrase "and the first tubular member will be inserted into the second tubular member" should be replaced with the phrase "upon insertion of the first tubular member into the second tubular member".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4, 9-10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Field et al (US 6,382,678).

With respect to claim 1 and with reference to Figure 2, Field et al disclose a connector with frangible seal comprising a single tubular cylinder (upper half of body 12) separated into a first section and a second section by only one frangible seal (26) wherein a first tubular member (28 or 28/32) is inserted into said first section and a second tubular member (52) is inserted into said second section wherein said first tubular member has an outside diameter approximately equal to that of the inside diameter of said second tubular member and whereby when the two tubular members are urged toward each other the frangible seal separating the two tubular members will be fractured and the first tubular member will be inserted into the second tubular member.

With respect to claim 2, wherein said frangible seal is a membrane formed from the same material as the tubular cylinder.

With respect to claim 3, wherein said tubular cylinder has approximately constant wall thickness throughout its length (in the axial or longitudinal direction).

With respect to claim 4, wherein said first section of said tubular cylinder has a different wall thickness than said second section of said tubular cylinder. Refer to Figure 2.

With respect to claim 9, wherein said first section has one or more protrusions on its inside diameter and wherein said second section has one or more protrusions on its inside diameter. Refer to Figure 2.

With respect to claim 10, wherein said frangible seal is a membrane formed from the same material as the tubular cylinder.

With respect to claim 12, Field et al disclose a method of making a connector with frangible seal comprising the steps of: inserting a first end of a first tubular member (28 or 28/32) into a first end of a single tubular cylinder (upper half of body 12); covering a first end of a second tubular member (52) with a thin membrane (62) wherein said second tubular member has an inside diameter approximately equal to the outside diameter of said first tubular member; and inserting said second tubular member into a second end of said tubular cylinder; whereby the thin membrane is a frangible seal that acts to separate the tubular cylinder into two sections and wherein when the first and second tubular members are urged toward each other the frangible seal separating the first and second tubular members will be fractured and the first tubular member will be inserted into the second tubular member.

Claims 1-4 and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Shurtleff (US 3,201,148).

With respect to claim 1, Shurtleff discloses a connector with frangible seal comprising a single tubular cylinder (3) separated into a first section and a second section by only one frangible seal (12) wherein a first tubular member (2) is inserted into said first section and a second tubular member (1) is inserted into said second section wherein said first tubular member has an outside diameter approximately equal to that of the inside diameter of said second tubular member and whereby when the two tubular members are urged toward each other the frangible seal separating the two tubular members will be fractured and the first tubular member will be inserted into the second tubular member.

With respect to claim 2, wherein said frangible seal is a membrane formed from the same material as the tubular cylinder.

With respect to claim 3, wherein said tubular cylinder has approximately constant wall thickness throughout its length. Refer to Figure 1.

With respect to claim 4, wherein said first section of said tubular cylinder has a different wall thickness than said second section of said tubular cylinder. Refer to Figure 1.

With respect to claim 9, wherein said first section has one or more protrusions (15) on its inside diameter and wherein said second section has one or more protrusions (threads) on its inside diameter.

With respect to claim 10, wherein said frangible seal is a membrane formed from the same material as the tubular cylinder.

With respect to claim 11, Shurtleff discloses a method of making a connector with frangible seal comprising the steps of: covering a first end of a first tubular member (2) with a thin membrane (12) wherein said first tubular member has an outside diameter; inserting said first end of said first tubular member into a first end of a single tubular cylinder (3); and inserting a second tubular member (1) into a second end of said tubular cylinder wherein said second tubular member has an inside diameter approximately equal to the outside diameter of the first tubular member; whereby the thin membrane is a frangible seal that acts to separate the single tubular cylinder into two sections and wherein when the first and second tubular members are urged toward each other the frangible seal separating the first and second tubular members will be fractured and the first tubular member will be inserted into the second tubular member.

Claims 1-2, 4-9 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Abbey et al (US 3,202,442).

With respect to claim 1, Abbey et al disclose a connector with frangible seal comprising a single tubular cylinder (10) separated into a first section and a second section by only one frangible seal (36) wherein a first tubular member (26) is inserted into said first section and a second tubular member (58) is inserted into said second section wherein said first tubular member has an outside diameter approximately equal to that of the inside diameter of said second tubular member and whereby when the two tubular members are urged toward each other the frangible seal separating the two

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tubular members will be fractured and the first tubular member will be inserted into the second tubular member.

With respect to claim 2, wherein the seal is a membrane formed from the same material (metal) as the tubular cylinder.

With respect to claim 4, wherein said first section of said tubular cylinder has a different wall thickness than said second section of said tubular cylinder. Refer to figures.

With respect to claim 5, wherein said first section has a larger diameter (as at 12) near a first end of the connector than near the frangible seal and wherein said second section has a larger diameter (internal diameter) near a second end of the connector than near the frangible seal.

With respect to claim 6, wherein the seal is a membrane formed from the same material (metal) as the tubular cylinder.

With respect to claim 7, wherein said first section has a reduced inside diameter section (inward flange abutting end of first member) slightly smaller than the outside diameter of said first tubular member and wherein said second section has a reduced inside diameter section (intermediate the two seals) slightly smaller than the outside diameter (as at 50) of said second tubular member.

With respect to claim 8, wherein said frangible seal is a membrane formed from the same material (metal) as the tubular cylinder.

With respect to claim 9, wherein said first section has one or more protrusions on its inside diameter and wherein said second section has one or more protrusions on its inside diameter. Refer to figures.

With respect to claim 12, Abbey et al disclose a method of making a connector with frangible seal comprising the steps of: inserting a first end of a first tubular member (26) into a first end of a single tubular cylinder (10); covering a first end of a second tubular member (58) with a thin membrane (62) wherein said second tubular member has an inside diameter approximately equal to the outside diameter of said first tubular member; and inserting said second tubular member into a second end of said tubular cylinder; whereby the thin membrane is a frangible seal that acts to separate the tubular cylinder into two sections and wherein when the first and second tubular members are urged toward each other the frangible seal separating the first and second tubular members will be fractured and the first tubular member will be inserted into the second tubular member.

Claims 2, 6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Abbey et al (US 3,202,442).

In the instance that the brass membrane cannot be considered the same material as the metal tubular cylinder, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the membrane and the cylinder of the same material (e.g. form the membrane thin of the same metal as the cylinder, or form the cylinder of brass), since it been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the

art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shurtleff (US 3,201,148).

Shurtleff fails to teach that the diameters of the first and second sections may be larger or reduced as claimed in claims 5 and 7. Nevertheless, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to so modify Shurtleff's first and second sections as a matter of design choice, especially given that Applicant offers such configurations as mere alternatives and since it is clear that Shurtleff's configuration would perform equally as well.

Claims 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Field et al (US 6,382,678).

Field et al fail to teach that the diameters of the first and second sections may be larger or reduced as claimed in claims 5 and 7. Nevertheless, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to so

modify Field et al's first and second sections as a matter of design choice, especially given that Applicant offers such configurations as mere alternatives and since it is clear that Field et al's configuration would perform equally as well.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 2/2/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant notes that the word "Figure" in Figure 1 was spelled correctly in the original drawing as filed. In response and to again point out, in Figure 1 of the drawings filed 7/23/03, the word "Figure" is incorrectly spelled "Figur".

Applicant's amendments to claims 1, 11 and 12 fail to patentably distinguish the claims over the prior art. Applicant seems to be interpreting the limitations "comprising a single tubular cylinder" and "comprising the steps of...inserting...into a first end of a single tubular cylinder" as excluding any art that shows a connector having more than one cylinder. This interpretation is incorrect. The term "comprising" is open-ended and the term "single" essentially equates to "one", and as such each of Field et al, Shurtleff and Abbey et al, as explained above, disclose a connector comprising a single (one) tubular cylinder, and a method of making a connector comprising the step of inserting...into a first end of a single (one) tubular cylinder. In addition, Applicant impliedly asserts that each of Field et al, Shurtleff and Abbey et al do not disclose the limitation "a single tubular cylinder separated into a first section and a second section by only one frangible seal". The Examiner disagrees. In Field et al, the single tubular

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cylinder (upper half of body 12) is separated into a first section and a second section by only one frangible seal (26). In Shurtleff, the single tubular cylinder (3) is separated into a first section and a second section by only one frangible seal (12). In Abbey et al, the single tubular cylinder (10) is separated into a first section and a second section by only one frangible seal (36).

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James M. Hewitt whose telephone number is 571-272-7084.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel Stodola can be reached on 571-272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


JAMES M. HEWITT
PRIMARY EXAMINER